

The Anchor



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Don't Look Now, but Christmas is Coming!

Philip Vandercook

I know that it is only September. Yes, my air conditioner is still running full blast most days. School has just begun for another year. But guess what? Christmas is coming. I know it is because I have already seen Christmas decorations in the stores. And yes, it is time for us to start preparing for celebrating our Savior's birth and sharing that wonderful message with seafarers who will be far from home and family on that special day.

Each year we give Christmas gifts to the seafarers and port workers during the month of December. Last year, because of your generosity, we were able to give away one thousand gifts. This year our goal is twelve hundred gifts. First, let me tell you why we do this. We can think of no better way to share the Good News than to explain the real meaning of Christmas. Every time we give a gift, we have an opportunity to share about the Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ. Christmas is also a difficult time for seafarers. Many of them will be far from their homes and families on Christmas Day. Many will be somewhere in the middle of the ocean. It is a very lonely time for them. When we give them a gift and they find out someone cared enough to think of them, their whole countenance changes. We also give these gifts to the people who work in the port. Of course, we do this to have the opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas, but we also do it because there are many lonely and forgotten people all around

us. I will never forget the gentleman that broke down in tears when he was given a gift. He told me that this would be the only gift he would receive that year.

This year we will be giving pocket calendars with a notepad and pen as the gift. We will also include a phone card so that the seafarers can call their fami-



lies on Christmas. We try to find something that will not only be useful but will be a gift that they will keep with them all year long. Along with the gifts we will be giving New Testaments so that they can read the Christmas story in their heart language.

We will give these gifts throughout the month of December. We will give them away at the center and aboard the

ships. We will have Christmas parties throughout the month. And, we will need your help! You can be a part of sharing Christmas with the world. You can help by providing gifts. For each gift that you would like to provide, please send \$8.00 along with a signed Christmas card. We will take the card that you have signed and place it in the box with the gift. We want whomever receives that gift to know there is someone praying for him and his family. You can help by hosting a Christmas party at the center. You can help by baking cookies and sweets to give out with the gifts. You can help by wrapping the presents. You can help by helping purchase New Testaments in different languages. And most of all, you can start praying now for the person that will receive your gift. If you are interested in helping, call today. The calendar usually fills up fast.

If you would like to provide Christmas gifts, please send your check and Christmas cards to Global Maritime Ministries, P.O. Box 750787, New Orleans, LA

70175+0787. You can also make your gift through our website, www.PortMinistry.com. On the donation page select "Christmas Project" as the purpose of the gift.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support! Thank you for making Christmas special for a seafarer far from home. And may I be the first to wish you a very merry Christmas!

Reflections

Virginia Mann (through Norman Mangum)

Virginia is one of our dear friends from North Carolina. She came down for a visit a couple of weekends ago. Priscilla and I decided to invite her to go with us on the Norwegian *Spirit* to see firsthand the type of ministry that we are doing. After we arrived back at our house, she began to reflect on the things she had witnessed, so I asked her to write about her experience. The article below is her reflection.

I am so thankful that Norman and Priscilla invited me to join them on their day of ministry on this ship. Additionally, I am grateful to the authorities for granting me permission to join them. It was such a blessing to me.

“Candy man!” “Yay, Tootsie Rolls, my favorite!” This is what I heard as I boarded and walked around the Norwegian *Spirit* with Norman and Priscilla.

I’ve told you what I heard; now let me tell you what I saw. I saw friends excitedly greeting friends. Such was the case with everyone that Norman

and Priscilla came in contact with on the ship, and they immediately accepted me. Actually most of them thought I was Priscilla’s sister. (which I consider a compliment since, after all, we are sisters in Christ).

You could tell by the smiles on their faces and in their eyes that they were happy to see Norman and Priscilla. It was very obvious that seeing them weekly and knowing that they were there just to give to them and not ask anything in return meant a lot to them. And when I say “give to them,” I’m not talking about candy. I’m talking about smiles, handshakes, and ears truly listening to what they had to say. I’m talking about joys and sorrows shared, questions answered, and helping hands offered. I’m talking about a relationship.

What better way to be able to talk to someone about the saving love of Jesus Christ? After all, how can you tell someone about your relationship with

Jesus and what he has done for you and is willing to do for everyone, if you don’t first build a relationship with that person?

While we were on the ship, Else was at the center cooking for the ones who came to the center to use the computers and the other items available to them. You have to understand that Else’s cooking is not opening a box and following the directions. She does everything from scratch! I don’t know what she made because it was all gone by the time we got back to the center, but it still smelled delicious when we got back and there were still some great looking cookies, brownies, and cake left. Else is one of the volunteers and her cooking and baking is a labor of love. What a testimony of Jesus’ love and servant hood!

I left that day truly blessed and with a greater understanding of Global Maritime Ministries and the important work being done for our Lord.

Are You Prepared?

Ben Niscavits

I have a friend from high school who is traveling the world right now. He served in the military and finished his studies at university, so he has been spending a couple of months just seeing the world. He and I have not spoken much since we graduated from high school ten years ago, but we keep up on Facebook. To my knowledge, Ryan is not a Christian.

The other day I saw him online and started talking with about his travels. Many of the seafarers we deal with daily are from some of the countries he has been visiting. Many of those seafarers come from different religious

backgrounds, so I asked him a personal question. I asked, “Ryan, what is something that you have learned through all of your traveling to these countries?” He said that he really began to appreciate how much he has back in America. As our conversation continued he mentioned something that I couldn’t resist to delve into more deeply to hear his answer. He said, “Yeah I’m really starting to doubt what people in America believe.” I in turn asked him to define that. Well, that turned into one of the most uplifting and encouraging moments of our conversation.

I asked him if he was talking about religious beliefs or something else, and we ended up talking about religion and Jesus. I just shared the Gospel with him. Ryan had told me since he has been visiting all of these different countries, he has been wanting to talk with me about some religious questions that he has had while traveling.

Who would have known that my friend Ryan, ten years later, would want to ask me questions about God? Well, I will tell you who knew: God! God prepares us for each conversation and

(Continued on page 3)

In Memory

In Memory of:

Mrs. Grace Blanchard
 Mr. Herbert Gathright
 Mrs. Mary Dean Hart
 Mrs. Mary Dean Hart
 Mrs. Mary Dean Hart

 Mr. Leon Hodnett
 Dr. C.H. Melton
 Mrs. Millie Miller
 Mrs. Lois Russell

Given by:

Ms. Vermelle McDill
 Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Lofton
 Mr. & Mrs. Maud A. Day
 Mrs. & Mrs. Fischer
 Celebration's Sunday School
 Class
 Mrs. Dorothy Hodnett
 Mrs. Vera Melton
 Mrs. Margie Lea
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Russell

In Honor

In Honor of:

Mrs. Barbara Bedgood
 Mrs. Eleanor Hofheinz
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Mrs. Lona Rhew
 Rev. Philip Vandercook

Given by:

Ms. Karen Caldwell
 Mrs. Margie Lea
 Mrs. Marjorie Winstead
 Mrs. Melissa Poag
 Dr. & Mrs. Dan O'Reagan

Building Fund / Square Foot Fund

Ms. Vermelle McDill
 Rev. & Mrs. Norman Mangum
 Mrs. Melissa Poag

Mr. Carl Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tubbs

2011 Statistics

(through August 2011)

<i>Ships visited</i>	255
<i>Seafarers contacted</i>	8,333
<i>Port workers contacted</i>	549
<i>Countries represented</i>	100
<i>Seafarers visiting center</i>	5,139
<i>Professions of faith</i>	8
<i>Scriptures distributed</i>	320
<i>Evangelistic Presentations</i>	219

2011 Budget Requirements

<i>Budget needs</i>	\$ 200,000.00
<i>Budget income</i>	\$ 159,229.64
<i>Building LOAN balance</i>	(\$ 324,177.88)
<i>"Pay off the debt" pledges (\$1,000)</i>	18

ANOTHER WAY TO HELP

We are praying to be able to pay off the debt on the New Orleans building by 2013, the start of our fiftieth year of ministry. How can you help? If we can get 350 people to pledge to donate \$1,000 (either all at once or over the next fifteen months), we can retire the debt on the building as we celebrate fifty years of ministry. So far, eighteen people have taken this challenge! Why is paying off the building so important? If we can take what we're now paying on the building note and put it back into the ministry budget, we can hire additional staff. Please pray with us about pledging to pay off the debt!

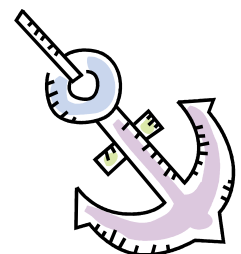
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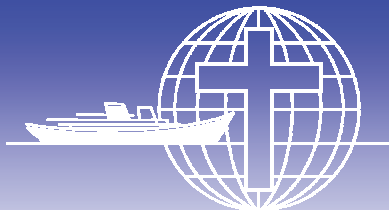
opportunity to be used for his glory if we empty ourselves and allow ourselves to be used. God granted me a day to lift up his name to Ryan, and I look forward to more conversations with him about Jesus. Not only should I be prepared at Global Maritime, but wherever I am. Peter wrote, "But in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a

defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

I will ask you in return, are you prepared? Are you allowing yourself room for God to fill you up with his power? He desires for us to be his witnesses, and as his people we are to be ready at all times to "go" and be his witness. Each day may we remember what Paul said by "dying daily" so that

Christ can live in us. This is what the world will see,—"Christ in Us"—and they will have no need to discount Christians any longer. May we be His people!





Global Maritime Ministries, Inc.

Global Maritime Ministries exists to provide holistic Christian ministry by meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of seafarers and maritime workers .

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Global Fest 2011

Friday, September 30, 2011

Dinner & Auction 5:30–7 p.m.

Music by *Tapestry* at 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church

5290 Canal Boulevard

New Orleans, LA 70124

Don't Forget Global Fest!

Global Fest 2011 is now just weeks away! We have been reminding you for months of the importance of this event. Global Fest is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and because of the money raised during last year's Global Fest, we were able to end the year in the black. We are praying this year that we raise enough funds to cover the gap in our budget and our income and to procure funds to hire additional staff for our quickly-growing ministry.

This year, we will again enjoy a wonderful seafood dinner (catfish, shrimp, and all of the trimmings) and our dessert extravaganza. Before and during dinner, guests will have the opportunity to browse and bid on the many wonderful auction items available. We have auction items of all kinds and in all price ranges, so you are sure to find something on which to bid! For a list of some of the auction items, visit our website (www.PortMinistry.com), click

on the Events page, and scroll down below the calendar to see a PowerPoint of some of the items. Musical entertainment during the dinner and auction will be provided by a jazz combo, and after dinner, we will enjoy music by *Tapestry*.

Tickets for Global Fest 2011 cost just \$15.00. You can purchase tickets on our website (the Donate Now tab), by calling the center, or buying them at the door. We can't wait to see you!